



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Road
Absecon, New Jersey 08201

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 18, 2020

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD AS A ZOOM MEETING.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Keith Bennett at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Caleb Cavileer, Betty Howell, Steve Light, Keith Bennett

ABSENT: Frank Phillips

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Fred Scerni, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone, Ed Dennis

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

PRESENTATION – ACMJIF – Paul Miola

Paul - spoke about Absecon's participation in the Joint Insurance Fund and the costs and expenses over the years; the city's loss ratio and how premiums are computed. He explained the process for certain situations due to Covid 19. Cybercrime training was given to employees and sexual harassment training is offered as well. They offer all types of safety training, either by classes or videos. Our policy will be ending and it will be time to renew shortly.

Keith – thanked Paul for coming. It was a great presentation. He asked him to rate Absecon and where would he put us at?

Paul – with a letter grade, we'd get an A because everyone here is doing everything that helps the City to get the high rating.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 76** Authorizing the sale of personal property not needed for public use under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36.

Jessica – it's all municipally owned items that we are not using. Right now we are selling police cars, but it could be bicycles that haven't been claimed, old computers etc. This has been working out better than having an auction.

- 77** Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the construction of a new Fire Department Facility.

Eddie – he addressed the items that are changed. It dealt with technology items and he explained why and that we might be coming in under the \$75,000 that was budgeted for it. We are not spending any more money than we expected into this. We are just paying for an item that was put inside the contract in the beginning. It's not an extra cost. Another item is site lighting covering the light poles that weren't included in the contract because we didn't know who was going to install them. We have determined that the lighting options offered by AC Electric are not what we want for that building. The contractor will now be doing them. We had \$50,000 set aside for lighting and it turns out it's going to cost a little over \$19,000, with a savings of \$30,000.

Steve – asked if this lighting is going to help with what the American Legion lost?

Eddie – yes, it's part of our design package.

- 78** Authorizing the City of Absecon to reject all bids for the Pitney Road Pedestrian Safety Improvements.

Eddie – we opened the two bids that we received and unfortunately they were higher than our construction budget for the project. We recommend rejecting these bids and going out again. He has a hunch that what has been going on for the past few months, has effected why we didn't get more bids. He's hoping to get more next time. If we don't get a bid close to what our costs are, we might have to change the scope of the work.

Caleb – we were hoping to get this project completed while school was out. He asked Ed how he saw the timeline on this now. Could it be possible to have done by September 1st?

Eddie – He doesn't see it being 100% complete but we could get the work near the school done first and then the work on Pitney Road. It is an unfortunate consequence with having to go out to bid again.

Steve – has your office relooked at the drawings and something that might have been missed to compensate for the \$55,000 increase?

Eddie – yes and nothing jumped out. Projects are based on ones done in nearby towns.

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items only)

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

All were in favor. No comments.

Motion to close public – Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

Keith read the Consent Agenda Resolutions again.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Howell

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,841,788.60

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 6/4/2020

Motion to approve – Councilman Cavileer - second – Councilman Light

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

REPORTS

Public Works - Burroughs – had the second meeting for the year. Ed thoroughly covered everything tonight. Future work on Fourth Avenue was discussed as well.

Eddie – spoke about the gas company and the restoration of our roads. They will not be leaving our roads with any holes and they should be milling the roads if needed. He read off the streets where work is to be done.

Finance – Cavileer – spoke about the change order again. We should be getting our rating soon for our bond.

Community Affairs – Cain – places are starting to open up in town. Some restaurants have put tents and tables outside for dining. The Arts Alliance flower pot contest will be happening 7/29. Hopefully we will be opening soon.

Parks & Playgrounds – Light - The concerts in the park will take place, but with a delayed schedule. Asked the Mayor and Jessica to update us since the Governor has changed some dates.

Jessica – we should finalize next week and we should be okay for a July 12th start. The concession stand would be closed and no 50/50's.

Steve – thanked the carpenters union for their help with the ramp at the American Legion building

Economic Development – Howell – thanked Sgt. Huenke and Dr. Dooley who arranged for all the 8th graders to receive their diplomas. They did a great job. The Creek Fest committee will be meeting soon to decide what to do. She suggested people practice safety rules so we don't have to shut down again.

Chief Laughlin – thanked the fire department for help with the 8 graders diploma deliveries. Asked residents to keep an eye out for kids playing outside during the summer months.

Administrator - the shredding event has been rescheduled for October 10th from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We received all positive remarks from the rating presentation and she stated some of the items that they look at. We should get our rate on June 23rd and an electronic bond sale will be held on July 14th and we should close on July 30th. We will then pay off our existing note that is due on July 31st and then we will have the funds available to continue with our projects that we have in place.

MONTHLY REPORTS for May - Carie

Municipal Court - \$3,152.05
Construction - \$10,206.00
City Clerk - \$13,539.00
Tax Collection - \$3,556,049.67

Mayor – thanked our restaurants for quickly preparing for outside dining. They are open and ready to serve the public. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton opened on Sunday and they will continue to live stream it at 10:00 a.m. Our emergency management team have offered their assistance to the other churches to implement plans to be able to have their services. AC Electric reminds customers to be prepared for all emergencies. As of today, 63.48% have responded to the US Census. Please do so if you have not already.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public was made by Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer
All were in favor.

Keith thanked Lt. Ray Adams for helping run this Zoom meeting.

Steve – reminded all our residents to exercise our right to vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 7.2.2020